U.S. proposals at Rio Conference

1296. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Delegation at the recent UNCED at Rio had mooted a 'Forestry Convention' to be signed by member countries; and

(b) if so, what were the details of the US proposal and what was the stand taken by India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The move to have a Forestry Convention was made prior to the Rio Conference by ome developed countries including USA. This was opposed by several developing countries including India. Finally, at the Rio Conference in June, 1992 the consensus was for a "Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all types of Forests."

Setting up of National Research Laboratories on Forests and Environment

1297. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up at east four National Research Laboratories on Forests and Environment one each at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Government have always accorded highest priority to research having a bearing on forest conservation and ecology. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is the umbrella orpanisation for Foresury Research which is carried on through six umbrella organisation for Forestry research centres. Several other institutes like the G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Wildlife Institute of India and other Centres of Excellance like Salim Ali Centre for Orinthology and Natural History, Ecological Sciences Research & Training Centre. Centre for Mining Environment etc. are undertaking research directed towards sustaining ecological balance in our total environment. There is ,however, no proposal under consideration to set up laboratories on Forests and Environment at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

वन संरक्षण और पर्यावरण के सुधार के लिए योजना

1298. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को वन संरक्षण और पर्यावरण में सुधार करने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की कोई योजना प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश में चल रही परियोजनाओं का जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Earth summti at Rio

1299. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of groups or individuals who were sponsored by

Government to attend the recent RIO Earth Summit;

(b) the details of all sponsored groups, individuals or association; and

(c) what were the norms considered for selection for sponsorship to attend the RIO Earth Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Participation of 33 persons, as listed in the statement (*see* below) was sponsored and assisted by the Government in the Rio Conference. They included besides the official members of the delegation, Parliamentarians, eminent Scientists, students, journalists, representatives of Non-Government Organisations including women's organisations, and public personalities.

(c) Professional expertise and/or active involvement with the issues addressed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was the primary consideration for their selection.

Statement

List of official and sponsored participants at the RIO Conference

1. Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Environment and Forests.
2. Shri Har Swarup Singh, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry, Pondicherry.
3. Shri Ambarish Mukherjee, Minister of Environment, Government of West Bengla & Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.
4. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament, Lok Shbha.
5. Ms. Bakur Patel, Sheriff, Bombay.
6. Dr. Digvijay Singh, Former Member of Parliament and Former Deputy Minister for Environment.
7. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Agriculture Scientist and Director, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Madras.
8. Shri Hari Dang, Executive Diretor, Sustainable Development, New Delhi.
9. Shri Anil Agarwal, Director, Centre for science and Environment, New Delhi.
10. Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director. Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad.
11. Prof. P. Khanna, Director, National Environment & Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur.
12. Shri R. Rajamani, Secretary, Environment & Forests, GOI.
13. Dr. S. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology Government of India.
14. Shri C.D. Pandeya, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.
15. Shri C. Dasgupta, Additonal Secretary (IO), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
16. Shri Mukul Sanwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
17. Shri D. K. Biswas Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
18. Shri Avani Vaish, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
19. Shri Ajai Malhotra, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

20. Shri Neeraj Prasad, Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India.

21. Smt. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.

22. Shri Nikhil Seth, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, New York.

23. Shri Anthony De Sa, Deputy Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Forests.

24. Mrs. Shobha Ranade, National President, All India Women's Conference.

25. Mrs. Lalitha Balakrishnan, Member, Standing Committee of N.G.Os. on NWDB.

26. Mr. Gautham Vohra, DRAG. Bombay.

27. Mr. S. Narendran, Student of Loyola College, Madras University, Madras (Member of AIESEC).

28. Shri S.K. Sharma, Chandigarh Environment Society, Chandigarh.

29. Prof. Hemlata Swarup, Director, All India Women's Studies and Development Organisation.

30. Shri Sriram Dash, Jana Seva Parisad, Kendarapara, Orissa.

31. Shri G.S. Randhawa, Information Officer, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

32. Shri Kalyan Patra, Environmental Journalist.

33. Dr. Basant Singh, Associative Professor of Geography University of Rajashtan.

Signatories to Bio-diversity Convention

1300. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and several other countries have signed the bio-diversity convention at Rio-Janeiro during the UNCED in June this year;

(b) if so, the other countries which have signed the Convention; and

(c) what were the main concerns of the United States and other developed countries in signing the treaty and what was the outcome of the disscussions held to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) 157 countries, including India, signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio De Janeiro in June 1992. The list of signatories is given in the statement. (*See* below). The United States of America did not sign the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio de Janeiro and expressed the view that the agreement threatens to retard bio-technology and undermine the protection of ideas and unlike the claimate agreement, its financing scheme would not work.

Statement

List of countires which signed the convention on Biological diversity at RIO-DE-JANEIR O

Afghanistan

Algeria

Angola

Antigue and Barbuda

Argentina

Armenia

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bahamas

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Barbados

Belarus